

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A locking device for vertical connection of an upper connection component, that comprises an upper engaging section, to a lower connection component, that comprises a lower engaging section, ~~whereby the locking device comprises~~ comprising at least two shell segments (1) that reach, at least in part, around the connection from the outside and in horizontal direction, with the shell segments (1) comprising an upper and a lower edge (5, 6) adjacent to each of which an upper and a lower engaging section (7, 8) facing the connection is provided so that, should the connection of the two connection components come apart, the upper engaging section (7) of the shell segments (1) is supported against the upper engaging section provided at the upper connection component, while the lower engaging section (8) of the shell segments (1) holds the lower engaging section (13, 14) of the lower connection component.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~Looking~~ A locking device according to Claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising an upper and a lower washer (9) each being assembled of at least first and second washer segments (11, 12), ~~whereby the washers (9) can~~ being configured so that each can be pushed onto the connection from the outside and in horizontal direction, whereby, when installed, the upper washer (9) is fixed to the upper connection component and the lower washer

(29) to the lower connection component, whereby the upper and lower engaging sections (13, 14) are each formed on the respective washer segments (11, 12).

Claim 3 (presently amended): ~~Locking~~ A locking device according to Claim 1, wherein 1 or 2,  
~~characterized in that~~ the shell segments (1) are connected to each other in ~~the~~ an installed state.

Claim 4 (presently amended): ~~Locking~~ A locking device according to Claim 1, wherein one of  
~~the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the engaging section (7, 8) of the shell segment (1) is formed by a projection that is bent from the upper or lower edge (5, 6) at an essentially right angle.

Claim 5 (presently amended): ~~Locking~~ A locking device according to Claim 2, wherein one of  
~~the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the engaging section (13, 14) of the upper or lower connection component or washer segment (11, 12) is formed by a projection protruding from the outer perimeter of said washer segment.

Claim 6 (presently amended): ~~Locking~~ A locking device according to Claim 5, wherein the  
~~preceding claim, characterized in that~~ the projection protruding from the outer perimeter is stepped.

Claim 7 (presently amended): ~~Locking~~ A locking device according to Claim 1, wherein ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the engaging section (7, 8) of the shell segment (1) extends along the entire upper or lower edge (5, 6).

Claim 8 (presently amended): ~~Locking~~ A locking device according to Claim 2, wherein ~~one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the engaging section (13, 14) of the upper or lower connection component or washer segment (11, 12) extends along the entire outer perimeter.

Claim 9 (presently amended): ~~Locking~~ A locking device for a pivot connection of a ceiling-mounted medical supply unit according to Claim 1, ~~one of the preceding claims~~.